

Christmas Hampers

Each year **Gloucester City Mission** runs a **Christmas Carol Concert** for our street friends.

At this event we also distribute Christmas hampers; often the only present that these individuals receive over the holiday period.

If you would like to help GCM with its **Christmas Hamper Project** you can put together your own hamper based on the following suggestions or donate individual items:

- **Strong plastic carrier bag.**
- **Food/drink:** mince pies, cake, chocolates, sweets, small jar of coffee, small packet of tea bags, drinking chocolate, packet soup, small packet of sugar, Pot Noodles.
- **Toiletries:** soap, flannel, deodorant, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, etc.
- **Clothing:** gloves, scarf, hat, socks.
- **A Christmas cracker.**
- **Suitable Christian literature.**
- **A Christmas card from yourself / house group / Church.**

No nuts please; many substance abusers and homeless have no teeth, or very few, also no tangerines or oranges due to the difficulty in distributing them while still fresh.

This year our **'Street' Christmas Carol Concert** will be held on **December 12th at 11.00am.**

We would appreciate any contributions toward the Hampers by Friday the 7th of December at the very latest please.

Thank You!

We would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for your support, for all of the anonymous donations that we have received throughout the year and for the continual support of our printers, Inky Little Fingers, who enable us to produce this newsletter. GCM would be unable to continue its work without your thoughts, prayers and support. May God bless you.

Yours in Christ,
Dave Kinghorn and the GCM Team



Dates for the Diary

On the **1st of every month** we invite the volunteers and staff to join together and pray for each other and for the work of the mission. **Every three months** we extend the invitation to all our supporters and we would love it if you could join us at the next one on **1st December at 7.30pm** to celebrate and pray for all that God is doing through the mission here in Gloucester.

Prayer and Praise
30th November
7.30pm - All welcome

This is on the night before the **Winter Shelter 2** opens for 4 months so will be an opportunity to pray for the guests and volunteers.

THURSDAY

22

NOVEMBER

AGM

Join us at **7.30pm** at **The George Whitfield Centre**. All are very welcome to come to our AGM. **A chance to celebrate the past year at GCM.** This will be an opportunity to thank our outgoing **Chair of Trustees, Phil Gent** and to welcome our new **Chair, Nick Gleich.**

Volunteers

We have an amazing team of around **55 volunteers**, but we are always looking for more. Volunteers are needed on a **Tuesday afternoon, Wednesday morning and Friday afternoon.**

Our teams **serve food, pray for clients, help give out clothes, go out on the streets and help people as Jesus would have done.** If you feel that you would like to come and volunteers, or if you know someone who might be willing to spare a few hours a week, please contact **dave@gloscitymission.org.uk**



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GCM is a member of the

British Association of City Missions

Charity No: 1115780

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Dates for the Diary

It has been a busy year for **Gloucester City Mission**, so busy that we have only just got the newsletter out! Looking back there are some definite highs and tragic lows and a massive near miss that could have immense consequences for GCM.

The **Winter Shelter** from January to March was one of our high points for the team at GCM, so humbling to see rough sleepers coming in and being able to have somewhere safe to rest, to eat and to sleep just made all the hard work so worth it. The chance to share the gospel, the opportunity to serve the vulnerable and seeing Christian mission being lived out in the heart of our City was a privilege to see. We look forward to **Winter Shelter 2** with confidence and also apprehension but safe in the knowledge that **all glory goes to our Father and through him, all things are possible.**

Easter was right on the end of the **Winter Shelter** and was a time of sadness mixed with celebration at GCM. The season of Easter is one that evokes much in the way of feelings and emotions as a Christian with the death and resurrection of Jesus. On a personal note for me, it was hard to celebrate the defeat of sin with the passing of **Phil Clayfield**. Phil was the leader of **Gloucester Community Church** as well as a trustee at GCM, to me Phil was a pastor, a friend, a listening ear and a role model. The saying you don't know what you've got till it's gone rings true. I don't think I truly realised the impact Phil had had on my life and I thank God for the time we had together.

Our friends at the **George Whitefield Centre** received the usual Easter Egg and Good newspaper as well as hearing the message of resurrection and hope for the world. Before we knew it the summer was here and it was that time again.... The build of knowing England would have lots of hype and little end product... then the qualified from their group, then they made the last 16 and then the quarters...

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Serving Christ in the City

did I dare to dream... semis against Croatia, could this be the year... No. But wasn't it fun while it lasted! At GCM we opened for the England matches and the Poland games as well as selected others so that the homeless and vulnerable could watch the games in an alcohol free zone. On the evening of the England Columbia game, we were busy preparing food and getting everything together only to discover smoke, and quite a lot of it, so the alarm was sounded and everyone evacuated to the car park. The fire engines arrived and the fire put out, no one hurt which is the main thing! It did mean we were without water and electric. It meant we missed the football that night also! God is good, through contacts and contacts of contacts and with help again from **Barnwood Shopfitters** we were back up in action in no time.

9 amazing individuals came together in September to take on a challenge to raise funds for GCM and in particular the winter shelter. Walking 84 miles in 3 days sleeping out overnight, essentially 3 walking 3 marathons in 3 days, definitely something I could not do! Together as a team they have raised just over £10,000 which is an amazing amount and completely blew us away.

Winter Shelter 2 is just around the corner, the focus is well and truly on that and **Christmas.** **Emmaus Gloucestershire** are partnering again with us and we are very grateful to have them on board. This is also a great opportunity to say thank you to all our supporters who have helped shape GCM into what it has become and what we pray it will grow to be. So if you give your money, give your time, give your prayers or donate items or resources to us in anyway, thank you, be blessed in all you do and we will be praying for you all.

Dave Kinghorn



WINTER SHELTER

Last Year's Winter Shelter 1 - 2017-2018

With time not on our side it was a bit of a rush to get things ready and together for our first attempt at running a winter shelter that would be **open every night from January 8th to March 31st**. Due to the cold weather we actually opened on the 5th January which was testament to God's provision for us that through him no task is impossible.

It is important to thank **Louise McKenzie** who was our project coordinator and pulled together a great team of staff and volunteers to facilitate each night and offer a place of safety and hope for those sleeping rough in our city and across the county.

In total we received **134 individual referrals** and slept **121 different people** for at least one night over the coldest months of the year. The oldest person to use the winter shelter was in his 60s and the youngest was in his 20s, we had **21 females** referred to us over the 3 months and we would not have been able to make this happen without your support, your finances, prayers, donations of clothes, time or well wishes.

Winter Shelter 2 - 2018-2019

So Winter Shelter 1 ran solely in 2018, **Winter Shelter 2** runs across the end of 2018 and into 2019, meaning that Winter Shelter 2 will be open longer, cost more and hopefully if needed serve more people.

It is strange to think that a successful shelter is one that is basically empty and understands that people stay for a couple of nights' tops and then move on into more appropriate, secure accommodation, or one that is always empty because there is no need for it.

The reality is though that homelessness in particular rough sleeping is on the rise. **In 2017 in England it was estimated that on any given night 4,500 people were out sleeping on the streets.**

In 2017, Homeless Link reported that the South West saw an 11% increase in the numbers of rough sleepers. **In 2018 Shelter released a report with figures showing that 37% of homeless families living in temporary accommodation in the South West are working.** These figures are shocking, but what is the response of the Church?

This is the question that City Missions are being asked as well and our response has to be resolute. This may mean upsetting people and their views on what should be done but the Bible gives us our answer and Jesus words are clear...

If you feel you can help in any way, please get in touch with us, dave@gloscitymission.org.uk, we would love to hear from you.

When we are struggling with difficult situations and running low on items it is so important and strengthening to know that we have such solid support behind us and we are truly thankful.

On arrival rough sleepers had a **hot meal** waiting for them, made by our superb team of volunteers. There was **access to showers**, we had toiletries and towels available on site, a washing machine was available and a tumble dryer. **Clothes were provided from the clothes store** when required and importantly those accessing the winter shelter were safe, warm and looked after.

We have learnt some lessons, muddled through some aspects and importantly continued to give the glory to God. We are here to serve, we seek his guidance and look to work for the glory of the Kingdom.

If you supported us in any way through **Winter Shelter 1**, we would like to say thank you. If you would like to support us through **Winter Shelter 2**, please get in touch.

Matthew 25:40-45 (NIVUK):

'The King will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

'Then he will say to those on his left, "Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave me nothing to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was ill and in prison and you did not look after me."

'They also will answer, "Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or ill or in prison, and did not help you?"

'He will reply, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me."

The **Winter Shelter 2** is a chance to step out in faith, it is a chance to challenge the comfort zone that you may find yourself in and a chance to practically live out mission right here in Gloucester.

GCM is looking for volunteers, staff and resources to help those who are some of the most vulnerable in our city, to show the light and love of Jesus and sow the seeds to build the kingdom which is what we are called to do.



Hadrian's Wall

On the **7th of September** a team of ten set off to walk the width of the country from Wallsend in Newcastle to Bowness-on-Solway on the west coast of the UK. **The route followed Hadrian's wall, All 84 miles of it!** We were originally hoping to raise £6,500 towards the £39,000 it will cost to run the City Mission's Winter Shelter this year. **We actually managed to smash that original target and raise in excess of £12,000, which was a fantastic result.**

We started off with a team who had not met each other before, however by the time we had finished we were a group of friends who are keen to stay in touch and help support the work of the **Gloucester City Mission**. The walk did not come without its challenges (particular to people's feet). It was incredible how people manage to carry on walking over a marathon every day with such huge blisters. **The highlight of the challenge was how a group of strangers can bond when faced with a common problem...and maybe some shared pain!**

Gloucester City Mission would like to thank the team who took part **Ade Jones, Matt Greathead, Lisa Nicholls, Clare Nicholls, Adrian Beere, Ben Maughn, Kev Mannion, Alexis Patterson, Ian Judd and Nick Penney** for their amazing efforts and helping to ensure we have a winter shelter this year in Gloucester.



Hadrian's Wall Team



Back to School

GCM has been working more closely with local schools recently. We believe that is very important to share information and raise awareness with children and young people.

Since the start of this school year we have done school visits to **Coopers Edge Primary School and St Marys Catholic Primary School**. Visits are scheduled to the **High School for Girls, Churchdown Academy School, St Roses School and Fieldcourt Junior Academy.**

We have published a **Primary School Education Pack** that has been sent to every Primary School in the County and we are now working on a pack for Secondary Schools. These packs will enable schools to teach about homelessness and the work of Gloucester City Mission. **The pack, as well as other resources, are available for schools to download on our website.**

At least 11 schools have signed up to support GCM as part of **World Homeless Day on 10th October** by holding fundraising activities.

Partners & Donors

We would like to thank the following organisations who have generously given financial gifts to GCM:

Emmaus Gloucestershire • Allchurches Trust • Renishaw • Greggs Foundation • Gloucester Rugby Academy • Glos Fire and Rescue • Garfield Weston Foundation • Gloucester City Homes • Notgrove Trust • Goodnews Evangelical Trust • Love Gloucester • Cllrs Jeremy Hilton and Pam Tracey.

